

TRUMBULL BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – April 21, 2010

PRESENT: Liz Nugent, Sharon Altieri, Ken Martin, Patricia Pavia, Debi Miller,

ABSENT: Bob Marconi

GUEST: Laura Ponzi; Doug Carey, Dan Nelson

The meeting of the Trumbull Beautification Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by K. Martin. Attendance was noted and a quorum was had.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Dan Nelson of the First Selectman's Office was in attendance and gave insight as to the status of the vacancies/appointments for the Commission. Ken Martin officially submitted his resignation from the Commission. He will continue as an ac hoc member of the Commission. Bob Marconi and Sharon Altieri have had their tenure on the Commission extended and they only need to be sworn in to make those extensions in force.

There will be an R&R meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers on April 26th at 8:00 p.m. At that time, Doug Carey will be officially appointed to the Commission and will take Ken Martin's spot on the Commission. Laura Ponzi will be officially appointed to the Commission and will take either Elizabeth Casey or Patricia Wright's spot on the Commission. Sabine Bonnar will be able to be appointed to the Commission, however that appointment will not be occur until the June meeting. That specific date and time will be provided. She can participate on the Commission as an ad hoc member until that time. Once appointed, she will take either Elizabeth Casey or Patricia Wright's spot on the Commission.

That would leave one open position – that held by Christine Rafferty. Her appointment on the Commission does not expire until December of 2010. D. Miller will contact her and advise her that the Commission would like her to submit a Letter of Resignation so that the Commission might find another person to serve in her spot. It was suggested that Joan Plouffe be offered the position and P. Pavia will contact Joan to see if she would be interested in serving.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting were discussed. S. Altieri motioned that the minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting be accepted as presented. L. Nugent seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Financial Report was not available.

RAMP UPDATE: K. Martin indicated that he had opportunity to speak with Dimitris Paris. He indicated that if the Town purchased the property on the corner of Tait and

Churchill Road, that the Town might be interested in adopting the island at Churchill/ White Plains Road. This area, however, is presently “maintained” by Luigis. Dan Nelson confirmed that the Town is not presently interested in pursuing the purchase of that property. The Commission members agreed that Benny DiMarco, the owner of Luigi’s, should be contacted regarding his intention to keep the area, and if so, then his sign and the maintenance of the area must be updated and improved. D. Miller will contact him.

P. Pavia also confirmed that she had verbal commitment from the State regarding having permits for the island area at Route 25/111. She will follow up with the State for confirmation. David Benjamin, the owner of Wakeman’s (now with a new name) should be contacted to see if he would consider maintaining any part of this area. If he is not interested, it was suggested that Sun Products be contacted.

K. Martin indicated that John Marsilio, the new Public Works Director, would like to attend the Commission’s next meeting. An Agenda for next month’s meeting will be sent to him via separate cover. Mr. Marsilio indicated that the Town would remove the asphalt on the islands on Unity Road/ White Plains Road and Quality Street. These are the areas, which will be maintained by the Commission and Trumbull Community Women respectively. The Town will provide soil for the areas.

D. Miller indicated that she has reviewed all of the permits. P.J’s Garden Exchange; Matt Bitner and UHC are all out leaving those areas open for sponsors. There is also the island on Park Avenue as you enter the Merritt Parkway heading north. The owner of the building across from this area may be interested in maintaining that location. His name is Phil Degenero. There is also an area off the Route 25 Connector – Exit 9 both north and southbound and an area off Shelton Road.

D. Miller will also contact Higgins Group regarding their interest in the Madison Avenue/Chestnut Hill location. D. Carey will contact Plasko Farms regarding any interest in maintaining one of the Daniels Farm Road locations.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: K. Martin nominated Thomas & Carrie Bohlen of 157 Old Dyke Road for their Japanese gardens. S. Altieri suggested that the owners of the Trumbull Center receive an award for the renovations they are doing in the Trumbull Center. It was suggested that we hold off on that award until the construction is complete. We also need to get the proper name of the owners.

Discussion was had about acknowledging those who get an award – possibly putting a temporary sign on their lawn area for a term of 30 days. Question came up as to whether the people would not give the sign back. D. Carey will investigate the possible cost for a few signs to be made up. If the Commission authorized the purchase of these signs, suggestion was made that verbiage be put in a press release signed by the award winning resident stating that at the end of the 30 days, they must return the sign.

GUARDRAIL PLANTINGS: P. Pavia indicated that 7 plants were ordered from Planters Choice and are ready for pick up. Those will be picked up by B. Marconi and delivered to K. Martin for planting. The other 7 plants were ordered for D. Carey and have not yet been received.

BLIGHT ORDINANCE: There was never any information put in the ordinance regarding signage in and around the Town and what is and is not permitted. Dan Nelson indicated that a copy of the Blight Ordinance in its present form would be sent out to all taxpayers in their tax bills in July.

Unfortunately, the Blight Officer is part time and is also the Zoning Officer so these issues are not getting a lot of attention. Need to work with John Marsilio and Bill Levin of P&Z to try to figure a way to enforce the violations as they come up. It was suggested that Bill Levin be invited to the next meeting of the Commission as well.

Dan Nelson also indicated that the Blight Ordinance would also be discussed on April 26th at a meeting to be held prior to the appointment of the new members to the Commission. It was suggested that the members attend.

MALLET TRUST DONATION: D. Miller suggested that we contact Robert Tellilian of the Mallet Trust by June to thank him for past donations and hopefully prompt him to include the Commission in this year's donations.

TOWN HALL MARQUEE: L. Nugent indicated that the marquee has not been utilized over the last few months. Dan Nelson will check into who may be responsible for putting the upcoming events and other announcements on the marquee.

TIDY UP TRUMBULL: Members will meet at 9:00 a.m. on May 1st to participate in this event.

DAFFODIL GIVEAWAY: P. Pavia will check into prices for bulbs and will report back at the next meeting.

S. Altieri motioned that the meeting be adjourned. L. Nugent seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Butler, Clerk